

U.S.A. SUICIDE: 2003 OFFICIAL FINAL DATA

	Number	Per Day	Rate	% of Deaths	Group (Number of Sui.)	Rate
Nation	31,484	86.3	10.8	1.3	White Male (22,830)	19.5
Males	25,203	69.0	17.6	2.1	White Female (5,655)	4.7
Females	6,281	17.2	4.3	0.5	Nonwhite Male (2,373)	9.1
Whites	28,485	78.0	12.1	1.4	Nonwhite Female (626)	2.2
Nonwhites	2,999	8.2	5.5	0.9	Black Male (1,597)	8.8
Blacks	1,955	5.4	5.1	0.7	Black Female (358)	1.8
Elderly (65+ yrs.)	5,248	14.4	14.6	0.3	Hispanic (2,007)	5.0
Young (15-24 yrs.)	3,988	10.9	9.7	11.9	Native Americans (322)	10.4
					Asian/Pacific Islanders (722)	5.5

Completions:

a slight decline from 2002 was seen in 2003, but continues a pattern primarily of stability or slight decline in recent years

- Average of 1 person every 16.7 minutes killed themselves.
- Average of 1 old person every 1 hour 40.2 minutes killed themselves.
- Average of 1 young person every 2 hours 11.8 minutes killed themselves. (If the 250 suicides below age 15 are included, 1 young person every 2 hours 4 minutes)

- 11th ranking cause of death in U.S.— 3rd for **young**----->> Cause Number Rate
- 4 male deaths by suicide for each female death by suicide. All Causes 33,568 81.5
- Suicide ranks 11th as a cause of death; Homicide ranks 15th 1-Accidents 15,272 37.1

Attempts (figures are estimates; no official U.S. national data are compiled):

- 787,000 annual attempts in U.S. (using 25:1 ratio)
 - 25 attempts for every death by suicide for nation. 100-200:1 for young; 4:1 for elderly.
 - 3 female attempts for each male attempt.
- | | | |
|-----------|------|------|
| 10-14 yrs | 244 | 1.2 |
| 15-19 yrs | 1487 | 7.3 |
| 20-24 yrs | 2501 | 12.1 |

Survivors (i.e., family members and friends of a loved one who died by suicide):

- Each suicide intimately affects at least 6 other people (estimate)
- Based on the 749,337 suicides from 1979 through 2003, estimated that the number of survivors of suicides in the U.S. is 4.5 million (1 of every 65 Americans in 2003); number grew by at least 188,904 in 2003.
- If there is a suicide every 16.7 minutes, then there are 6 new survivors every 16.7 minutes as well.

<i>Suicide Methods</i>	Number	Rate	Percent of Total		Number	Rate	Percent of Total
Firearm suicides	16,907	5.8	53.7%	All but Firearms	14,577	5.0	46.3%
Suffocation/Hanging	6,635	2.3	21.1%	Poisoning	5,462	1.9	17.3%
Cut/pierce	571	0.2	1.8%	Drowning	339	0.1	1.2%

U.S.A. Suicide Rates 1994-2003 (Rates per 100,000 population)											15 Leading Causes of Death in the U.S.A., 2003 (total of 2,448,288 deaths; 841.9 rate)				
Group/ Age	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	Group/ Age	Rank	Cause of Death	Rate	Deaths
5-14	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.6	5-14	1	Diseases of heart (heart disease)	235.6	685,089
15-24	13.8	13.3	12.0	11.4	11.1	10.3	10.4	9.9	9.9	9.7	15-24	2	Malignant neoplasms (cancer)	191.5	556,902
25-34	15.4	15.4	14.5	14.3	13.8	13.5	12.8	12.8	12.6	12.7	25-34	3	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	54.2	157,689
35-44	15.3	15.2	15.5	15.3	15.4	14.4	14.6	14.7	15.3	14.9	35-44	4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	43.5	126,382
45-54	14.4	14.6	14.9	14.7	14.8	14.2	14.6	15.2	15.7	15.9	45-54	5	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	37.6	109,277
55-64	13.4	13.3	13.7	13.5	13.1	12.4	12.3	13.1	13.6	13.8	55-64	6	Diabetes mellitus (diabetes)	25.5	74,219
65-74	15.3	15.8	15.0	14.4	14.1	13.6	12.6	13.3	13.5	12.7	65-74	7	Influenza & pneumonia	22.4	65,163
75-84	21.3	20.7	20.0	19.3	19.7	18.3	17.7	17.4	17.7	16.4	75-84	8	Alzheimer's disease	21.8	63,457
85+	23.0	21.6	20.2	20.8	21.0	19.2	19.4	17.5	18.0	16.9	85+	9	Nephritis, nephrosis (kidney disease)	14.6	42,453
65+	18.1	18.1	17.3	16.8	16.9	15.9	15.3	15.3	15.6	14.6	65+	10	Septicemia	11.7	34,069
Total	12.0	11.9	11.6	11.4	11.3	10.7	10.7	10.8	11.0	10.8	Total	11	Suicide [Intentional Self-Harm]	10.8	31,484
Men	19.8	19.8	19.3	18.7	18.6	17.6	17.5	17.6	17.9	17.6	Men	12	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	9.5	27,503
Women	4.5	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.3	4.3	Women	13	Essential hypertension and renal disease	7.5	21,940
White	12.9	12.9	12.7	12.4	12.4	11.7	11.7	11.9	12.2	12.1	White	14	Parkinson's disease	6.2	17,997
NonWh	7.2	6.9	6.7	6.5	6.2	6.0	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.5	NonWh	15	Homicide [Assault]	6.1	17,732
Black	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.2	5.7	5.6	5.6	5.3	5.1	5.1	Black	-	All other causes (Residual)	143.4	416,932

Old made up 12.4% of 2003 population but represented 16.7% of the suicides.

Young were 14.2% of 2003 population and comprised 12.7% of the suicides.

Official data source: CDC's WISQARS website and "Fatal Injury Reports": <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/>; obtained 7 February 2006.

$$\text{suicide rate} = \frac{\text{number of suicides by group}}{\text{population of group}} \times 100,000$$

Suicide Data Page: 2003

10 February 2006

Prepared for AAS by John L. McIntosh, Ph.D.